

El Palacio Real de Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Santa Fe Co

HABS No. 36-NM-2

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 36
Utah, Colorado and New Mexico

Historic American Buildings Survey
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EL PALACIO REAL DE SANTA FE
North Side of Plaza
Santa Fe, Santa Fe County
New Mexico

Owner: N.M. State Museum and School of American Research.

Date of Erection: Between 1610 and 1614 (?).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Adobe.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ See Elise Lathrop's Historic Houses of America, but inaccurate.

EL PALACIO REAL DE SANTA FE.
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

El Palacio Real is located on the north side of the plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This famous old building served as the royal palace throughout the Spanish occupation of the southwest and continued as the official residence of the Governors of New Mexico until 1909. Many historians claim that the Palace was built by Don Juan de Oñate about 1606 upon existing foundations of an old Indian house. There is, however, no documental evidence available to prove that Santa Fe was founded prior to 1609 when Don Pedro de Peralta was appointed Governor. We have good evidence that he occupied the Palace a short time, so it is safe to assume the Palace was built between 1610 and 1614. These dates were established by Lansing B. Bloom as a result of his research in the archives at Sevilla, Spain. The Governors who officially occupied the Palace after 1609 were as follows;

Juan Martinez de Montoya

Cristobal Oñate (son of Don Juan de Oñate)

Pedro de Peralta (1608)

Bernardino de Zavallos (1614)

Felipe Zotylo (1621-1628)

Manuel de Silva (1629)

Fernando de Arguello (1640)

Louis de Rosas (1641)

Juan Valdez (1642)

Alonzo Pacheco de Heredia (1643)

Fernando de Arguello (1645)

Luis de Guzman (1647)

Hernando de Ugarte y la Concha (1650)

Juan de Samaniego (1653)

Enrique de Avila y Pacheco (1656)

Bernardo Lopez de Mendizabel (1658-1660)

Diego de Peñalosa Briceño (1661-1664)

Fernando de Villanueva

Juan de Medrano

Juan de Miranda

Juan Francisco de Treviño (1675)

Antonio Otermin (1679)

The Pueblo rebellion occurred in 1680 and the Palace was left to the Indians from then until 1693. During this time the Indians occupied the Palace and it is quite probable they made certain alterations.

On the return of De Vargas in 1693 he found the Palace and the Cuarteles had been destroyed. De Vargas then took over the Palace as his residence and it continued as the Palace of the Governors from then on.

The Spanish Governors occupying the Palace after De Vargas were as follows;

Pedro Rodriguez Cubero (1697-1703)

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Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan Ponce de Leon (1703-1704)

Juan Paez Hurtado (acting 1704-1705)

Francisco Cuervo y Valdes, ad interim (1705-1707)

Jose Chacon Medina Salazar y Villaseñor, marques de la Peñuela (1707-1712)

Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollon (1712-1715)

Feliz Martinez, ad interim (1715-1717)

Juan Paez Hurtado (acting 1717)

Antonio Volverde y Cosio, ad interim (1717-1722)

Juan de Estrada y Austria, ad interim (1721)

Juan Domingo de Bustamente (1722-1731)

Gervasio Cruzat y Gongora (1731-1736)

Enrique de Olavide y Micheleña, ad interim (1736-1739)

Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza (1739-1743)

Joaquin Codallos y Rabal (1744-1749)

Francisco de la Rocha (appointed 1747)

Tomas Velez Cachupin (1749-1754)

Francisco Antonio Marin del Valle (1754-1760)

Mateo Antonio de Mendoza (acting 1760)

Manuel Portillo Urrisola (acting 1761-1762)

Tomas Velez Cachupin (1762-1767)

Pedro Fermin de Mendinueta (1767-1778)

Francisco Trebol Navarro (acting 1778)

Juan Bautista de Anza (1778-1789)

Manuel Flon (appointed 1785)

Fernando de la Concha (1889-1794)

Fernando Chacon (1794-1805)

Joaquin Real Alencaster (1805-1808)

Albert Mainez (acting 1807-1808)

Jose Henrique (1810-1814)

Pedro Maria de Allando (1816-1818)

Facundo Melgares (1818-1822)

Under the Mexican Empire ----- Iturbide

Francisco Javier Chavez (1822-1823)

Antonio Vizcarra (1822-1823)

Bartoleme Baca (1823-1825)

Col. Antonio Narbonna (1825)

Manuel Armijo (1827-1829)

Jose Antonio Chavez (1829-1832)

Santiago Abreu (1832-1833)

Francisco Sarracino (1833-1835)

Albino Perez (1835-1837)

Manuel Armijo (1837-1844)

Mariano Chavez (acting 1844)

Felipe Sena (acting 1844)

Mariano Martinez de Lejanza (1844-1845)

Jose Chavez de Castillo ad interim (1845)

Manuel Armijo (1845-1846)

Juan Bautista Vigil y Alarid (acting 1846)

Under United States Government Military Rule.

General Stephen W. Kearney (1846)

Col. Sterling Price (1846-1848)

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Under Civil Rule

Charles Bent, assassinated January 19, 1847
(1846-1847)

Donaciano Vigil (1847-1848)

Under Civil Military Rule

Col. J. M. Washington (1848-1849)

Col. John Monroe (1849-1851)

Territorial Governors

John S. Calhoun (1851-1852)

John Grenier (acting 1852)

William Carr Lane (1852-1853)

W. S. Messeny (acting 1853)

David Merriwether (1853-1856)

W. H. H. Davis (acting 1856-1857)

Abraham Rendra (1857-1861)

Henry Connelly (1861-1866)

W. F. M. Arny (acting 1866)

Robert B. Mitchell (1866-1869)

William A. Pile (1869-1871)

Marsh Ciddings (1871-1875)

William G. Ritch (acting 1875)

Samuel B. Axtell (1875-1878)

Lew Wallace (1878-1881)

Lionel A. Sheldon (1881-1885)

Edmund G. Ross (1885-1889)

L. Bradford Prince (1889-1893)

William T. Thornton (1893-1897)

Miguel A. Otero (1897-1906)

Herbert J. Hagerman (1906-1907)

J. Wallace Reynolds (acting 1907)

George Curry (1907-1910)

In 1708 the Marquis de Peñuela contemplated the demolition of the Palace, but it was not destroyed. Seven years later a survey of its condition was made by Francisco Lorenzo de Casados. This report mentions the Chapel or Hermita de Nuestra Señora de Luz which was located in the eastern tower of the Palace. The western tower contained the calabozo or jail. No trace of these towers remain today as they were apparently destroyed in 1780. The Palace underwent many changes and alterations through the Spanish occupancy and again during the American occupation.

During the American occupation the Palace served as the seat of the Government as well as the official residence of the Governor. Seventy-five feet of the west end of the Palace collapsed in 1853 (at the time of the inauguration of Governor Merriwether).

The Quarters or soldiers quarters which extended about five hundred feet north of the present building have entirely disappeared. A Victorian portal was added sometime between 1862 and 1883.

A program for rehabilitation of the Palace for museum purposes was started in 1909 by the State of New Mexico. This program continued under the direction of Jesse L. Nusbaum

until late in 1913. During this time the whole Palace was renovated, weakened walls underpinned, roof repaired, heating plant installed, old floors repaired and new ones added, and the portal restored to a more primitive type. The Palacio Real is now the property of the State of New Mexico and houses the Museum of New Mexico and Library of the Historical Society of New Mexico as well as the offices of the School of American Research.

The Historical Society has old photographs of the Palace as well as some simple plans. Old photographs of the Palace and Santa Fe taken by Wittick are in possession of the Laboratory of Anthropology. E. Dana Johnson of Santa Fe is the owner of one of the oldest photographs of the Palacio Real.

- References; "Spanish Archives of New Mexico" R. E. Twitchell.
"Leading Facts of New Mexican History" R. E. Twitchell.
"Bancroft's Works, Vol XVII Arizona and New Mexico", Hubert H. Bancroft.
"Old Santa Fe" R. E. Twitchell.
"When Was Santa Fe Founded" L. B. Bloom, in New Mexico Historical Review Vol. IV, No. 2.

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